(b) to (d) The views expressed by both Indian and Pakistan sides on the project in terms of the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty have been recorded. At the end of the meeting, a Joint Press Statement was issued conveying that the two sides agreed to continue the discussion at the next round of the Dialogue Process with a view to resolving the issue in accordance with the provision of the Treaty.

Water crisis

938. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some States in the country are facing increasing water scarcity year after year;

(b) what long-term plan Government have to assist such States to tide over the water crisis; and

(c) whether Government propose to devise short-term schemes to help the water scarce State for instant relief?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that owing to growing population, the per capita water availability is reducing year after year.

The Government of India provides assistance to State Governments through various programmes in development of water resources, improving water use efficiency through proper water management, artificial recharge of ground water, restoring the traditional water bodies etc. Depending on emergent situations assistance is also provided through short-term schemes particularly in respect of providing drinking water supply.

Water crisis in Rajasthan

939. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajasthan seems to set for a spell of water crisis and consequently the riots; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to address the situation?